

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-99 (canceled)

Claim 100. (Previously presented) The DNA construct designated pETB2360210.

Claim 101. (Previously presented) An isolated and purified superantigen toxin DNA fragment encoding Staphylococcal enterotoxin B (SEB) in which at least one amino acid of amino acid positions 40-50 of SEB and at least one amino acid selected from the group consisting of amino acid positions 18-28, 55-65, 62-72, 84-94, 86-96, 89-99, 110-120 and 205-215 of SEB have been altered such that binding of said encoded SEB to the MHC class II receptor and T cell antigen receptor is altered.

Claim 102. (Currently amended) The DNA fragment of claim [[112]] 101, which encodes SEB in which the amino acids in positions 40-50, 84-89 and 89-99 have been altered.

Claim 103. (New) A recombinant DNA construct comprising:

- (i) a vector, and
- (ii) an isolated and purified altered superantigen toxin DNA fragment according to claim 101.

Claim 104. (New) A host cell transformed with the recombinant DNA construct according to claim 103.

Claim 105. (New) A host cell according to claim 104, wherein said cell is prokaryotic.

Claim 106. (New) A method for producing altered superantigen toxin comprising culturing the cells according to claim 104, under conditions such that said DNA fragment is expressed and said superantigen toxin is thereby produced, and isolating said superantigen toxin.

Claim 107. (New) The superantigen toxin DNA fragment according to claim 101, wherein the at least one amino acid includes amino acid positions 18-28.

Claim 108. (New) The superantigen toxin DNA fragment according to claim 101, wherein the at least one amino acid includes amino acid positions 55-65.

Claim 109. (New) The superantigen toxin DNA fragment according to claim 101, wherein the at least one amino acid includes amino acid positions 62-72.

Claim 110. (New) The superantigen toxin DNA fragment according to claim 101, wherein the at least one amino acid includes amino acid positions 84-94.

Claim 111. (New) The superantigen toxin DNA fragment according to claim 101, wherein the at least one amino acid includes amino acid positions 86-96.

Claim 112. (New) The superantigen toxin DNA fragment according to claim 101, wherein the at least one amino acid includes amino acid positions 89-99.

Claim 113. (New) The superantigen toxin DNA fragment according to claim 101, wherein the at least one amino acid includes amino acid positions 110-120.

Claim 114. (New) The superantigen toxin DNA fragment according to claim 101, wherein the at least one amino acid includes amino acid positions 205-215.